

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 10, 12, 15 and 16 are amended, and claim 17 is added. No new matter is added.

Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Support for Claim Amendments

Support for amendments to claims 1, 15 and 16 can be found at least at Fig. 4 and in the instant specification at paragraph [0131]. Claim 10 is amended for form. Support for amendment to claim 12 can be found in the instant specification at least at paragraphs [0178] and [0185] - [0189]. Support for new claim 17 can be found in the instant specification at least at paragraph [0132]. Thus, no new matter is added.

II. Claim 12 Satisfies the Requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. By this Amendment, claim 12 is amended. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

III. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

A. Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 6-8, 11, 15 and 16

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 6-8, 11, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0018278 to Sato. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 3, 6-8, 11, 15 and 16 are not anticipated by Sato. Sato does not disclose "a relay layer formed below the interlayer insulating film and electrically connecting the pixel electrode to the switching element, the relay layer having a two-layered structure including two metal layers," as recited in claim 1, and as similarly recited in claims 15 and 16. That is, with the claimed configuration, the two metal layers of the relay layer reliably block any light

that passes through the filler in the contact hole from reaching the switching element. See, the specification, e.g., Fig. 4 and paragraph [0131]. Nowhere does Sato discuss this feature.

Thus, claims 1, 15 and 16 are patentable over Sato. Further, claims 3, 6-8 and 11 are also patentable over Sato, for at least the reasons discussed with respect to claims 1, 15 and 16, as well as the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

B. Rejection of Claims 2, 4, 5, 12 and 13

The Office Action rejects claims 2, 4, 5, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sato in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,396,470 to Zhang et al. or U.S. Patent No. 6,806,932 to Matsuhima. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 12 and 13 would not have been rendered obvious by Sato in view of Zhang or Matsushima. Zhang or Matsushima do not remedy the deficiencies of Sato discussed with respect to claim 1. Claims 2, 4, 5, 12 and 13 depend from claim 1. Thus, claims 2, 4, 5, 12 and 13 are patentable over Sato and Zhang or Matsushima for at least the reasons discussed with respect to claim 1, as well as the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

C. Rejection of Claims 9 and 10

The Office Action rejects claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sato in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,429,962 to Yang. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 9 and 10 would not have been rendered obvious by Sato in view of Yang. Yang does not remedy the deficiencies of Sato discussed with respect to claim 1. Claims 9 and 10 depend from claim 1. Thus, claims 9 and 10 are patentable over Sato and Yang for at least the reasons discussed with respect to claim 1, as well as the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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